

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.  
CHRISTOPHER J. QUINN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Christopher J. Quinn on his selection as President-Elect of the American Optometric Association (AOA). Dr. Quinn will be installed as the AOA's 96th President during the 120th Congress of the House of Delegates this year.

Dr. Quinn's long-standing involvement with the AOA exemplifies his dedication to the association and the greater medical community. He has served on the Board of Trustees since 2008 and is a liaison trustee to the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education and the American Academy of Optometry. Throughout his career, Dr. Quinn has also been a member of the AOA Federal Relations Committee, the AOA State Government Relations Committee, and has also served as an AOA representative to the American Medical Association's Resource Based Relative Value Upstate Committee—Health Care Professionals Advisory Committee.

In addition to his experience with the AOA, Dr. Quinn is past president of the New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians, a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and is an adjunct professor at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, State University of New York, New England College of Optometry, University of California at Berkeley and The Ohio State University. He is also the owner and president of Omni Eye Services in New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Quinn as President-Elect of the American Optometric Association and thanking him for his commitment to his patients and the field of optometry.

NATIONAL REPUBLIC DAY OF  
AZERBAIJAN

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Republic Day of Azerbaijan commemorating Azerbaijan's 99th year of independence and democracy. In 1918, Azerbaijan became the first democratic and secular Muslim country in the world. However, in 1920, the country was absorbed into the Soviet Union. After seven decades, Azerbaijan prevailed over the forces of communism to restore the country's independence in 1991, following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Azerbaijan's National Republic Day highlights the nation's significant contributions to global stability, and religious tolerance.

As an unwavering U.S. ally, Azerbaijan has provided vital resources for U.S. and NATO forces and fought side-by-side with U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The United States is grateful for Azerbaijan's security contributions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq as well as the country's commitment to global nonproliferation efforts.

As a tolerant and secular Muslim-majority nation, Azerbaijan is dedicated to religious pluralism and ensuring the right of religious freedom. Azerbaijan is home to a thriving Jewish community and since the early 1990s, bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Israel have grown in the fields of intelligence sharing, security coordination and economic development.

I commend Azerbaijan for their participation in the international community as a member of the United Nations (UN), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Azerbaijan is a strong partner of the United States in a strategically important and complex region of the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Azerbaijani people on their National Republic Day.

RECOGNIZING "MARY A. WHALEN"

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the launch of the NYC Ferry South Brooklyn route, I rise to recognize the 79th birthday of the tanker *Mary A. Whalen* (The *Mary*).

The *Mary* was launched in May of 1938, and now serves as a vital community landmark and asset in Red Hook, Brooklyn. As home to PortSide NewYork, a nonprofit organization, the tanker is a vessel for arts, education and vocational programs as well as public access to the waterfront.

By recognizing the importance of a life of continued learning, PortSide NewYork developed Red Hook WaterStories. As a digital museum, WaterStories is a resource for both locals and visitors to learn about the history and present of the Red Hook Waterfront.

PortSide NewYork received a 2013 Champions of Change White House Award for their Superstorm Sandy preparations that protected the *Mary* followed by creating a pop-up aid station to ensure recovery efforts for the community after the storm.

The *Mary* is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the only oil tanker cultural center in the world. On June 1, 2017, the NYC Ferry will make its maiden journey to Red Hook, pulling up right beside the *Mary*.

I applaud PortSide NewYork for their dedication to serving the communities ashore and afloat, the Red Hook community and the maritime community of this port. On this joyful day, I wish them many more years of continued learning and success.

MARK GALLAGHER'S ENDURING  
LEGACY

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Gallagher family will lay to rest a beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and great grandfather—Mark Gallagher.

I worked with Mark for many years in his capacity as the key U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops lobbyist for the poor and unborn. Mark was a quiet but extraordinarily powerful force. While the full reach of his impactful life can only be known to God, those of us who were blessed to know him witnessed the many ways his persevering work made a positive difference for the lives of the weakest and most vulnerable.

First hired by the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment in 1974, Mark formally took up the cause just one year after *Roe v. Wade* stripped the unborn child of all legal protection. He eventually represented the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as their lead lobbyist until his retirement in 2007. Over the course of those three decades, Mark played an integral role in every pro-life effort in Congress.

He educated an entire generation of lawmakers on the arguments for protecting the unborn, at a time when few others could be found on Capitol Hill with this expertise.

Mark's skillfulness and serene demeanor was critical to the enactment of and defense of the Hyde amendment—the landmark amendment preventing federal funding of abortion that has saved the lives of at least two million people. Two million people who have been aborted instead survived because public funds were unavailable to effectuate their violent demise.

Mark was as concerned about the plight of women facing an unplanned pregnancy as he was about their unborn children. A former worker for U.S. anti-poverty programs like Catholic Charities, he was happy to take part in efforts to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Refundable Child Tax Credit.

A brilliant strategist for the causes he served, Mark was always selfless and self-effacing. Thanks to Mark's mastery of intricate details of the rules of Congress, all the legislative recommendations of the Meese Report, i.e. the Attorney General's commission to combat pornography, were enacted into law.

Beyond living out a Christ-like care for the vulnerable in the political realm, Mark also labored for souls, becoming a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church in 1996.

Someday soon, America will protect the weakest and most vulnerable. And into eternity Mark Gallagher played a critical part in this all-important human rights struggle. We are grateful for the gift of his life and pray for his family in their time of grief.

INTRODUCTION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING THE  
BRAVERY OF RICK BEST,  
TALIESIN MYRDDIN NAMKAI-MECHE,  
AND MICAH DAVID-COLE  
FLETCHER

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2017*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I, with Representatives SUZANNE BONAMICI, PETER DEFAZIO, KURT SCHRADER, and GREG WALDEN and the support of Sens. WYDEN and MERKLEY, am introducing a resolution commemorating the bravery of Rick Best, Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, and Micah David-Cole Fletcher. These courageous heroes